

HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO. LIMITED.

THE FRENCH MAIL.

The ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong Electric Co. Limited, was held yesterday at the Company's Offices, No. 25, Queen's Road Central. There were present Messrs. J. B. Aylwyn (Chairman), H. Widdow (Manager), C. S. Stokoe, J. Wheeler, A. L. Eustice, M. B. Polichwala, O. Baptista, and R. R. Roberts.

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I presume you will, as usual, take the report and accounts very seriously. We have had a very difficult time, the question of some addition being made to the ship-building programme had been under the consideration of Government for some time, and that the details of the addition to the Navy would be announced to the houses in the 15th proximate.

London, 17th June. In the House of Commons, Mr. Greenwood said that statement of certain circumstances to which it was needless to refer, at the question of some addition being made to the ship-building programme had been under the consideration of Government for some time, and that the details of the addition to the Navy would be announced to the houses in the 15th proximate.

London, 18th June. It is officially announced that the British naval manoeuvres have been abandoned this year, owing to the scarcity of steam coal due as much as we had at one time hoped for, progress among Chinese customers being disappointing. We have had to draw back through these manoeuvres, will be continuing some re-arrangement later on. With the exception of the item for coal the expenses only show a small increase in previous figures. Our coal bill, however, for reasons not well known to us all, shows a heavy increase, which has materially interfered with the net result of our year's work, and will also in some way affect our future work.

Another Egyptian BRIGADE ORDERED TO THE FRONT. London, 17th June. The 4th Egyptian Brigade, under Colonel Collingham, is ordered to join the Khartoum Expedition.

THE NEXT VICEROY OF INDIA. Allahabad, 18th June. A special telegram to-day dated London, June 17th, states that there is an increasing probability that Lord Curzon of Verulam will succeed Lord Elgin as Viceroy.

FIGHTING IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA. London, 20th June.

Fighting has taken place between the Athanians and the Servians. The latter pursued the Athanians to Berane, where they were met by a Turkish battery which compelled the Serbians to retire. Many were killed on both sides.

THE KHEDIVE'S EXPEDITION. London, 21st June.

Siadar, Kitchener, with most of his officers, has started for the front, and will not return till Omdurman falls. The Khedive has decided to concentrate his forces ten miles to the north of Omdurman, and there await the arrival of the Anglo-Egyptian troops.

BRITISH MEMPHIS THE HIGHER COMMISIONER APPOINTED. London, 21st June.

Mr. Gosselin and Colonel W. Everett, British Members of the Higher Commission, have been knighted for their services.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF MARSHAL BLANCO. London, 21st June.

The New York World reports that an attempt has been made by a Volunteer named Salva, in Havana, to assassinate Marshal Blanco, who was shot in the leg, but only slightly wounded.

No questions were asked.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and passing of accounts.

Mr. EUSTICE seconded.

Mr. STOKES proposed the re-election of the retiring Directors, Hon. C. P. Chater and Mr. J. B. Aylwyn.

Mr. POLICHWALA seconded.

Mr. EUSTICE proposed the re-election of Messrs. G. Stewart and A. Coutts as auditors.

Mr. A. LUN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before us, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Saturday. I hope the current year will be more successful than the one just closed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Opinions expressed by our correspondents

INSANITARY HOUSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir.—In closing the correspondence in the matter of the Hon. F. H. May's strictures on the houses, laying out the houses in order of sanctity, I would like to inform you that Victoria Hotel, I hope you will kindly allow me to state the following, in reference to the two letters which appeared in your issue of this morning.

Mr. Osborne is quite wrong in his application of section 66 of Ordinance 24 of 1857 to these houses on our line lot No. 13, the original Crown lease of which is dated June 25th, 1843. It is not necessary to apply only to the houses erected on "land other than from the Crown, after the passing of this Ordinance," which was on the 30th May, 1858. Similar provisions as to houses, &c., thereto referred were made in the matter of new buildings to be erected on the New Praya (Redemption) (Ordinance No. 16 of 1859 and passed 10th May, 1859).

The Regulations laid down in the above Ordinance are in no possible sense "roomy" manifestations of the Sanitary Board; they are "the laws of the colony, and the Government, so far as I am aware, have seen them strictly carried out."

It is rather amusing to note Mr. Osborne's ignorance of the local Ordinances. He refers to section 66 of Ordinance 24 of 1857 and endeavours to prove that the regulations laid down in that Ordinance are only "recommendations of the Sanitary Board," when as a matter of fact the Sanitary Board was not in existence at the time, this Ordinance 24 of 1857 being the Ordinance constituting the Sanitary Board.

Mr. Osborne is in a position to lay the blame for these houses on the Sanitary Board, but in accordance with the law and passed and approved of by the Public Works Department and the Sanitary Board, we should not have had permission from H. E. the Governor to erect either the verandahs or iron balconies, which we have done.

In reference to the letter of the Hon. F. H. May, I have nothing to alter or withdraw from my letter to you of the 2nd instant. Mr. May evidently does not know the meaning or definition of "front" as used in the report of the Committee of the report of the Commission on Tenement Properties does not refer in any way to such houses as are erected on this marine lot No. 13. "A back to back house," both here and in all other cities and towns throughout the civilized world, is a house that has only one true "front" pierced by openings by which light and air can enter the interior, and the side and back walls of which have windows, verandahs or doors, so that the only light and air to the house must, as far as it possibly can enter by the one front wall of the house. In such houses there is no through current of air, and assuming these back to back houses have, will say two windows on the single front wall of each house, and make a cross current by opening a window on the same front wall, the air passing through the whole length of the house. My houses on marine lot No. 13 have two "fronts" on opposite sides, as already described, and permit of through ventilation by means of the two windows and doors at each end of the house. This could not possibly have been done and a house with verandahs wider than 9 feet or 15 feet wide was left at the other end. The poor occupants of such dwelling and sleeping rooms would have had to live and sleep in an atmosphere diluted with the organic effluvia not only given off by the occupants themselves, but also the organic and far more noxious emanations from the houses standing on to the said roads and the effluvia from houses in those places. The state of things in such houses immediately after a typhoon or flood-gale, when the seafaring contractor is not able to carry out his duties, can be better imagined than described.

With all respect to Mr. May (when whom the colony has no better offer, and when every one is bound to do) I do not agree with his description of back to back houses. The Chinese houses and his description of back to back houses.

W. M. DANBY.

Hongkong, 5th July, 1898.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the owner's copy of the WILL DEED of Lot No. 4 in the British Concession, Shanghai, has been LOST and that if it has not been found within one month from the date of this advertisement it will be cancelled and steps taken to obtain a new deed.

K. D. ADAMS,
By his Attorney,
HERBERT F. DENT.
1898

Canton, 24th June, 1898.

W. BREWER & CO.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS

Hints on the Legal Duties of Ship

masters, by Gisbey. 5.25

A Manual on Laying of Iron, Steel and

Composite Vessels. 9.00

Year Book of Photography. 0.70

Tropical Diseases by Manson. 6.50

Vol. 7. Windsor Magazine. 3.50

Public Edition Shakespeare. 2.50

Steam Boilers Construction, by Hutton. 10.50

Spectre Gold, by Weston Hill. 1.00

Kronstadt, by Max Pemberton. 1.00

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TION OF COAL.

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No. 68, PEAKA. 1756

THE FRENCH MAIL.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

London, 17th June.

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Greenwood said that statement of certain cir-

cumstances to which it was needless to refer,

at the question of some addition being made to the ship-building programme had been

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London, 18th June.

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naval manoeuvres have been abandoned this

year, owing to the scarcity of steam coal due

as much as we had at one time hoped for,

progress among Chinese customers being dis-

appointing. We have had to draw back

through these manoeuvres, will be continuing

some re-arrangement later on. With the

exception of the item for coal the expenses only

show a small increase in previous figures.

Our coal bill, however, for reasons not well

known to us all, shows a heavy increase, which

has materially interfered with the net result of

our year's work, and will also in some way

affect our future work.

This represents a considerable proportion of our

gross receipts. It has not directly added to our

profit, but it has added to our loss.

London, 19th June.

Regarding the announcement of the aban-

donment of the British naval manoeuvres it is

explained that any details of cost available

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London, 20th June.

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London, 24th June.

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London, 25th June.

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